

Bernalillo County Commission Observer Report

March/April 2026

Karen Wentworth, observer

Bernalillo Set to Consider IRB to Fund Welcome Center/Digital Film Studios at Railyard

All members of the BCC were present at all March, early April meetings

Barbara Baca, District 1; Frank Baca, District 2; Adriann Barboa, District 3; Walt Benson, District 4; Eric Olivas, District 5

The Bernalillo County Commission is considering a proposal for a \$32 million Taxable Industrial Revenue Bond to help fund a welcome center and digital production studios at the Albuquerque Railyards. The building(s) would be used to assist with movie production.

The county commission has also approved an Industrial Revenue Bond for up to \$175 million to Oso Negro LLC for a large battery storage facility at the Ladera Business Park on Albuquerque's west side. The batteries will be used to provide backup electrical power to companies in the Albuquerque area.

This project is in line with the Central New Mexico League positions on Climate Change Action to "promote a clean low-carbon energy economy that is sustainable, including all forms of renewable energy and transportation infrastructure."

The commission approved the Annual Housing Plan required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Federal funds are provided to the City of Albuquerque and the County of Bernalillo for housing vouchers, which provide families with funds to temporarily pay for rent or limited time housing. The City of Albuquerque continues to have about 2,000 people on its waiting list for housing vouchers. Bernalillo County has about 1,800 on its list. This is about the same number of waitlist applicants for the last 5 years.

In addition, the commission has agreed to issue Project Revenue Bonds for Villa Hermosa to acquire and rehabilitate low-income housing. The bond is for \$25 million, and will provide 288 additional housing units in Albuquerque.

This project is in line with the Central New Mexico position on Housing "Local government has primary responsibility for making available, facilitating, and coordinating provision of affordable, decent and safe housing using federal, state, county, or city funds."